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The present contribution is abbreviated from a general discussion of certain distributional problems which forms part of a paper to appear from the University of California press and which treats in detail of the birds and mammals of the lower Colorado Valley, in California and Arizona.

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YELLOW VARIETIES OF RATS

IN a recent number of the NATURALIST I described a yellow variety of the common rat (*Mus norvegicus*) which in recent years made its appearance in England and is now a recognized variety among fanciers. Dr. John C. Phillips and Professor L. J. Cole have both called my attention to a fact which I had overlooked; namely, the occurrence of a yellow variety in another species of rat (*Mus rattus*). Bonhote described the occurrence of this variety in Egypt in 1910 and has since found by experiment (1912) that the yellow variation of *Mus rattus* is recessive in heredity precisely as it is in *Mus norvegicus*. The fact that the yellow variation in mice is dominant in heredity, but can not be obtained in a homozygous condition, stands, therefore, as a phenomenon all the more singular and striking.

W. E. CASTLE.

BUSSEY INSTITUTION,
March 3, 1914.